



THE GRANGE ACADEMY

Wade Deacon Trust



ASPIRE FOR EXCELLENCE

Friday 31st January 2020 – Issue 9

A Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

Challenge Partners

During the week beginning Monday 13th January, we had an independent review carried out by Challenge Partners. Challenge Partners is a nationally recognised organisation that provides challenge and support to schools through a three day review process. We welcomed a review team of six experienced senior leaders from across the county which included a Lead OfSTED inspector, two National Leaders of Education (NLE) and leaders from other schools. We were delighted with the feedback and it supports our belief that we are moving rapidly in the right direction. Some key findings from the report stated that;

- 'Leaders demonstrate an ambitious vision for the success of the school. At all levels there is evidence of a commitment both to the journey of improvement and to a highly inclusive ethos.'
- 'The Primary curriculum is broad and balanced and includes input from specialist teachers in Physical Education and Music from the Secondary phase. Students benefit from a structured and well-sequenced approach to the teaching of Phonics. The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) learning environment is rich with high quality resources and continuous provision is well planned and managed. Children engage purposefully with a range of activities and are clearly enjoying and achieving.'
- 'Students in the Secondary phase experience a rich range of subjects including a number of creative disciplines.'
- 'Students benefit from high quality and engaging classrooms.'
- 'Collaboration across the phases is becoming increasingly powerful and is leading to improved confidence amongst staff.'
- 'Leaders have established high expectations for students' behaviour and conduct around school. The Behaviour for Learning policy is clearly understood by staff and as a result students report that standards of behaviour have improved.'
- 'Over the last academic year, leaders have succeeded in improving levels of attendance and it is now close to the national average.'

The full report will be published on our website in the near future. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the staff for their hard work and preparation for the review and also the students for their continued commitment to their learning.

Car Parking

Please can I remind parents and carers that dropping off and picking up of students should not take place on Latham Avenue and that the designated drop off zone or parking bays should be used. It is important that all our students are safe when coming to and from school. Please do not park in the drop off zone or block in other vehicles. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Equipment

In the Primary phase students have been provided with a pencil case for all their equipment needs. In the Secondary phase students are able to replace equipment from their respective wing during form time. Can I ask for your support in ensuring that your child is well equipped for school so they can continue to make good progress in lessons.

School Places & Visits

Should you know of any prospective parents who might wish to visit the school during the school day we would be more than happy to show them around and discuss where we have spaces in particular year groups. The feedback we are receiving from parents and carers during Parents Evenings is excellent and I want to ensure that we continue to grow as a school community. If you have any questions regarding school places and tours please can you contact the main office in the first instance.

A community that works together to create an exceptional learning journey for all.

ASPIRE FOR EXCELLENCE

Attendance

Attendance – Week 17

HIGHEST ATTENDING YEAR GROUP:

Year 3 – 96.1% & Year 11 – 93.8%

HIGHEST ATTENDING CLASSES:

RPS, BJ & 2G - 100%

HIGHEST ATTENDING FORM:

8WNG - 100%

ATTENDANCE COMPETITION

The highest attending class in Primary and the highest attending form group in Secondary each week will receive lunch time front of queue passes for the following week.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE TARGET 97%

Aspire for Excellence

Attendance – Week 18

HIGHEST ATTENDING YEAR GROUP:

Primary Year 3 – 99.1% Secondary Year 8 – 96.7%

HIGHEST ATTENDING CLASS:

3W - 100%

HIGHEST ATTENDING FORM:

7OGN & 11ELT – 99.2%

ATTENDANCE COMPETITION

The highest attending class in Primary and the two highest attending form groups in Secondary each week will receive a celebration breakfast.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE TARGET 97%

Aspire for Excellence

ASPIRE FOR EXCELLENCE



Staff Profile

Associate Assistant Principal – P Boyd-Rugen



Education

2000 -Graduated with a 2:1 BA (Hons) in English Literature & Psychology at Liverpool Hope University.

2001 -PGCE with Distinction in English.

Jobs

Hairdressing; Interior Design; Self-Employed Designer Dressmaker; Visual Merchandiser at M&S and finally, Customer Services (whilst studying for my degree).

Proudest Moments

Apart from gaining a degree whilst working and being a mum, my proudest/memorable moments are travelling around Europe on a motorbike and later visiting a school in Kenya, where I was also lucky enough to go on Safari and see the wildebeest migration to the Serengeti.



Act of kindness - Runcorn Veterans

Halton Veterans Community Force are a local charity that help ex-servicemen and women, their families as well as struggling local families across Runcorn and Widnes. The jobs include food hampers and foodbank, hats, scarves and clothes to Childrens Centres, families and other local smaller groups and clubs. We are extremely proud that one of our students, Alice-May Jones has been helping her Dad, along with the Veterans community, to put a lot of these hampers and packages together for the local community. What a lovely act of kindness, well done Alice-May!



Telephone: 01928 562660
Email: info@thegrange.com
Website: www.thegrangeacademy.co.uk



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Year 8 La Tasca visit to Liverpool

In Spanish lessons Year 8 students have been learning about traditional Spanish food. On Friday 24th January a group of Year 8 students visited La Tasca in Liverpool for lunch to try out some Spanish tapas dishes.

Upon arriving at the restaurant students were greeted by our friendly Spanish waiter, Carlos. Carlos was quickly impressed as our students were keen to try out their language skills by ordering their drinks in Spanish.

Students enjoyed a wide variety of traditional tapas dishes, which definitely went down a treat as there was very little left on anyone's plate. The meal was finished off by the most amazing Spanish dessert called 'churros con chocolate'. Feedback was positive with many students wanting to go to Spain as they enjoyed the experience so much.



Mayors Award and Duke of Edinburgh

On Wednesday 22nd January, we celebrated the achievements of our students from the Mayors Award and Duke of Edinburgh. Students gained their Bronze, Silver and Gold awards. The evening was held at The Brindley Theatre. Students received their awards from John Bucknall, Commissioner for Young Peoples Services. The evening was supported by our fantastic Choir and The Grange Academy Band (their first ever performance). Well done to everybody involved!



A champion in the making

On Thursday 19th December, Maisie Brewer and her pony Gentle Bay (or Gareth as he is known at home) competed at the prestigious Olympia International Horse Show in London. Maisie, who has been riding since she was 4 years old beat over 3500 other competitors from across the UK to secure her place at one of the world's oldest and well-known horse shows.

The whole experience was fantastic and a dream come true. It was only topped by actually being placed in her class; a remarkable achievement in itself but made all the more special as she was the only child in a class of adults!

Maisie's campaign to qualify again for this show begins at the end of January whilst she also competes in British Eventing competitions with her other pony Eddie.

Congratulations Maisie!



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Primary News

We had a brilliant assembly last week when Mrs Connelly and Mrs Ashcroft joined us from Brookfield school to tell us all about the Brookfield students who are based in our school this year. Grange students found it really interesting and listened well. They loved seeing and interacting with the students and were delighted to learn more about their likes and dislikes and how they can be more involved. The Brookfield/Grange partnership is really working well.

We were invited recently to take some Year 3 students to LIPA to watch some 1st year students who had prepared a special show as part of their course. We took the minibus and so could only take 11 students as we were joined by some Year 9 students who are looking to study at LIPA when they move up to Sixth Form. While we were in Liverpool we took the opportunity to visit the Anglican Cathedral and the Chinese Arch. It was a great day and the students really enjoyed themselves.



Volunteers wanted

Have you got any spare time? Do you have a relative or neighbor with some spare time? Can you volunteer in school for an hour or more a week on a regular basis? We need volunteers to listen to readers, talk to our Reception, Nursery and Year 1 pupils during their Continuous Provision Learning time, help in Art lessons or share any other skills you may have.

You will need to have a DBS check on your background (as is required if you are working with children) but if you are willing, have patience, like helping children then please get in contact. All we need is for you to commit to a regular slot for at least half a term. Please see if you can help.

Letters

Don't forget letters are sent home on a Thursday (occasionally trips or special events mean we have to send a letter on an extra day). Please check your child's bag each Thursday. There is usually at least one letter each week!

Attendance and Punctuality

We have seen an improvement in the number of pupils arriving to school on time – well done and thank you

Please remember school starts at 8.40am. We begin learning at this time so please ensure your child is on time so that they can maximise their learning time. A few minutes late each day adds up to almost half an hour or an hour late each day and this makes a huge difference to a child.

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ASPIRE FOR EXCELLENCE

Picture News - an overview of themes

We receive weekly Picture News resource, including a current news story, a linked image, a thought-provoking question and a variety of teaching resources to support assembly and form time delivery. These promote Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development (SMSC) as well as Modern British Values (MBV) in both phases of the school whilst developing oracy through discussion work, reading and writing.

| Week | News story | Focus question | British value |
|----------------------------|--|--|---|
| 2 nd September | Environmental activist, Greta Thunberg, set sail from the UK, on a 2-week journey to attend the UN climate summits in New York and Chile. Fans gathered to wave her off on her voyage across the Atlantic. | Are our actions more important than our words? | Individual Liberty - We make lots of choices every day. We make choices on the words we choose to say and on how we choose to act. Our choices will affect others around us so it's important we think carefully about our words and actions. |
| 9 th September | Fires have been burning the world's largest tropical forest, the Amazon Rainforest, for around 4-weeks. The French President, Emmanuel Macron, has called the fires an "international crisis" and along with 6 other countries, offered money to help put the fires out. The Brazilian President, Bolsonaro, refused this money. | Is it wrong to refuse help? | Respect - The Earth's rainforests contain more than half of the world's plant and animal species! They also generate lots of the oxygen that we all need to survive. It's important that they are respected by all of us, to make sure they are protected. |
| 16 th September | About 100 pupils and parents staged a protest outside a school in East Sussex at the start of the school year against its new school uniform policy. Police attended the demonstration outside Priory School in Lewes against a new policy instructing all pupils to wear trousers, banning skirts. | How important is school uniform? | Democracy - Schools have different rules for what their pupils wear. There may be times we feel rules aren't fair to everyone. It is during these times that rules can be discussed, allowing us all to have a voice and share our opinions. |
| 23 rd September | Many charities have campaigned for the teaching of first aid in the UK and Ireland to become part of the school curriculum. Now, for pupils in England first aid classes will be compulsory from September 2020 with schools in Wales, Scotland and Ireland expected to follow. | Should first aid be an adult's responsibility? | Individual Liberty - In emergency situations, we may need to act quickly to help others. First aid training can help provide us with knowledge and understanding to make choices that could save lives. |
| 30 th September | Some people have stopped donating to the Royal National Lifeboat Institute (RNLI) charity after an article in an online newspaper stated how the charity spends £3.3m a year (a small amount of their total money) on projects in other parts of the world. | What is the best way to help those in need? | Mutual Respect - People may need our help and support for many different reasons. We can help people we know, people who live nearby or people who live in other parts of the world. |
| 7 th October | What3words, an app which is able to provide an almost exact location for wherever you are in the world by using just 3 words, has caused division between those who think it can save lives to others who believe that one company shouldn't know where we all are all the time. | Is it important for others to always know where we are? | Individual Liberty - In emergencies, people need to be able to find us and technology can help locate us quickly. There may be other times when we don't want everyone to know our location – it's important to be in control of the information we share. |
| 14 th October | The Duchess of Sussex, Meghan Markle, is taking action against a newspaper after she claims it published a letter she wrote to her dad without her permission. Meghan's team has confirmed the action against the British paper, accusing it of a "campaign...to publish false stories about her". | Should we all be entitled to a private life? | Rule of Law - It is a Human Right for us all to live our lives with respect for our privacy. Whether that be in our homes or in our interactions with others. This is true whoever we are. |
| 21 st October | Someone in the UK won the full £170m EuroMillions jackpot, making them Britain's richest ever lottery winner. The prize will be paid out at a special ticket validation appointment. | Can the lottery improve people's lives? | Respect - The National Lottery Community Fund has helped thousands of people improve and develop their communities. When people take part in the lottery, some of the money will support the community fund. |
| 28 th October | Antarctica's Emperor penguin's future is in danger over the course of the next 80 years if the climate warms as expected. | Is it ever acceptable to intervene with nature? | Individual Liberty - It is important to let nature take its course as the world has a natural order and rhythm. There may be times however, when we feel it is right to help an animal to ease suffering. |

ASPIRE FOR EXCELLENCE



House Team Update



Wall of Champions

It is with great enthusiasm that the House Team announce the start of the Wall of Champions for this academic year. This was a great success last year, giving our students the opportunity to shine in all subjects and ended with a prestigious awards ceremony where their hard work and achievements were recognised. When nominated for a subject award, parents and carers will receive a *SAVE THE DATE* letter celebrating your child's nomination. Tickets for the awards ceremony will then follow closer to the time of the event. We are looking forward to sharing and celebrating your child's achievement with you.

The first nominations for Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) are:

Poppy 3W - Excellent expression and enthusiasm when presenting herself in Spanish to the class.

Freyja 3R - She is eager to show Spanish understanding through practising conversations with her partner or standing in front of the class to name Spanish words.

Sophie 5OI - Fantastic enthusiasm and participation in all Spanish lessons.

Fabio 7LIG - For excellent participation in French in class and always trying his best.

Charly 9CRZ - For excellent achievement and perseverance in French. An independent student who is resilient and hard working.

Andrew 11MCN - For his hard work and commitment to the subject. An independent student who is resilient and motivated.

The first nominations for Music and Drama are:

Ava 2H – For great participation and enthusiasm in all lessons.

Alyssa 2G – For great participation and enthusiasm in all lessons.

Layton 6M – For being a motivated singer during the Christmas production.

Thomas 6G – For always trying his best with lots of enthusiasm during singing lessons.

Liam - 10RLG – For working extremely hard in the run up to his Music exam. He has attended almost all of the revision sessions as well as being a very active part of the Music department. He attends band every week and it is obvious that he practices very regularly.

Daisy 7OGN – For having a brilliant subject knowledge. Daisy has also been awarded a Merit in her Grade 4 ABRSM violin exam.

Mia 8FOS - For her enthusiasm, energy and leadership skills in Drama. Mia is also fantastic at bringing cross-curricular skills such as Singing and Dance into her performances.

Up and coming House events

Pictionary

Primary & Secondary

12th February 2020

Telephone: 01928 562660

Email: info@thegrange.com

Website: www.thegrangeacademy.co.uk



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Career of the Week

Career: Tattooist

Skills you'll need:

- to be able to use a computer and the main software packages competently
- design skills and knowledge
- the ability to work well with your hands
- concentration skills
- excellent verbal communication skills
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- the ability to accept criticism and work well under pressure
- to be flexible and open to change

Salary:

Variable salary, you could open your own tattoo studio

Useful subjects:

Art, Biology, IT, Maths



WoW -Word of the Week

Word of the Week (WoW) is our weekly investigation into vocabulary. Each week we look at a high-frequency yet misinterpreted word and explore the definition, sounds, spellings, word-families, grammar and history surrounding it.

(week beginning 20th January)

This week's word is

infer (verb) -deduce or conclude (something) from evidence and reasoning rather than from explicit statements.

(week beginning 27th January)

This week's word is

therefore (conjunctive adverb) -for that reason; consequently.

How you can help: encourage the use of the word in speaking and writing; model the use of the word when you talk.



Hegarty Heroes



All homework in maths is now set weekly on hegartymaths.com. If you would like to know more please check the link on the school

Most video hours Year 7 - Cerys Findlow

Most video hours Year 8 - Alfie Flannery

Most video hours Year 9 - Gracie Carr

Most video hours Year 10 - Bobby Lowrie

Most video hours Year 11 - Holly Ryder

Most learning hours - Year 7 - Maisie Richards

Most learning hours - Year 8 - Lily O'Neill

Most learning hours - Year 9 - Gracie Carr

Most learning hours - Year 10 - Cerys Begley

Most learning hours - Year 11 - Holly Ryder

Most questions answered Year 7 - Kerian Grant

Most questions answered Year 8 - Isabel Thomas

Most questions answered Year 9 - Gracie Carr

Most questions answered Year 10 - Harry Clare

Most questions answered Year 11 - Holly Ryder

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Safeguarding, Emotional, Wellbeing and Mental Health



Child Bereavement UK provides free support and information to bereaved children and young people up to the age of 25 and parents bereaved of a baby or child, within the locality and surrounding area.

Support is offered from Child Bereavement UK's Cheshire centre in Widnes, families can contact the service to make a referral by phone 01928 577 164

or by email cheshiresupport@childbereavementuk.org



TikTok is a social media app that gives users the opportunity to share 60 second short videos with friends, family or the entire world. Like Musical.ly before it, it is most popular with under 16s. It has also now become the most downloaded app of 2019. 13 is the minimum age according to TikTok's terms and conditions. However, please be aware of the concerns around the inappropriate language of some of the videos posted which may make this less suitable for younger children.

In addition, there are ongoing concerns re predators seeking to connect with children via the app. When you download the app **users can see all the content without creating an account** although they are not able to post, like or share anything until they've set up an account on the app. **By default all accounts are public** so anyone on the app can see what your child shares. Users can like or react to a video, follow an account or send messages to each other. There is the risk that **strangers will be able to directly contact children** on the app. Children may be **tempted to take risks to get more of a following** or likes on a video so it's important to talk about what they share and with who.

For information on social media in general, please refer to the following websites:

www.thinkuknow.co.uk

www.saferinternet.org.uk

MyEd App

MYEd is the free parent app that gives you a multitude of communication and information features to stay in touch with what is going on at school. The app gives you direct access to your child's attendance, timetable, absence records, achievements, behaviour and much, much more. You will also see that we update and change the information in the app as the school year moves along.

We are able to send you messages directly to the **MYEd** app relating to important information about your child's education and to remind you of events that are taking place at school. You will receive a notification if we send you a message and there is no charge for the messages you send to us.

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Dogs on School Premises

Unfortunately we can no longer allow dogs onto the school premises. This is for a number of reasons including allergies, fear of some pupils and the risk of incidents. We acknowledge that most dogs are delightful and adorable, however for some pupils they create anxiety which then affects their ability to learn.

Thankyou for your support in this matter.

Primary students have been working hard to improve their scores on Times Tables Rockstars. Here are the top ten rockers from the last two weeks. Well done!



| Rank | Name | Lifetime Earnings |
|------|------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Roxy C | 163,853 |
| 2 | Alfie D | 570,722 |
| 3 | Tyler V | 87,020 |
| 4 | Edward B | 103,723 |
| 5 | Izzie M | 46,155 |
| 6 | Grace S | 116,013 |
| 7 | Rania H | 190,961 |
| 8 | Amelia O'H | 69,114 |
| 9 | Lucas M | 59,684 |
| 10 | Leah M | 67,790 |

Thought of the Week

Everything possible today was at one time impossible. Everything impossible today may at some time in the future be possible.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

| <u>Event</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Time</u> |
|--|-----------------------|------------------|
| Year 8 HPV injections | Tue 11th Feb | |
| International E-Safety Day (Primary activities in lessons) | Tue 11th Feb | |
| Year 5 Group Assembly - parents are invited to attend | Fri 14th Feb | 9.00am-10.00am |
| Year 8 Progress Evening | Thu 13th Feb | 4.00pm - 7.00pm |
| School closes for Half Term | Fri 14th Feb | |
| Inset Day | Mon 24th Feb | |
| Year 4 Colomendy trip | Wed 26th-Fri 28th Feb | |
| Year 5 Crucial Crew trip | Tue 3rd Mar | 12.15pm - 3.00pm |
| Year 1 Group Assembly - parents are invited to attend | Fri 6th Mar | 9.00am-10.00am |
| Year 4 Group Assembly - parents are invited to attend | Fri 20th Mar | 9.00am-10.00am |
| Year 3 Group Assembly - parents are invited to attend | Fri 1st May | 9.00am-10.00am |

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